

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX A – GENERAL INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

How many days should I spend in Acadia?

An average stay here is 3-4 days.

Is there any lodging in the park?

Acadia only has two park campgrounds on Mount Desert Island, but there are many other types of accommodations in nearby towns.

What is there for children to do in Acadia?

There are many miles of shoreline to explore, hiking trails to climb, and carriage roads on which to bicycle. Two beaches offer salt water or fresh water in which to swim. Children of all ages may also participate in the Acadia Junior Ranger Program. Some of the ranger-led programs are specifically designed for children.

Where are pets allowed in the park?

Pets are allowed on most hiking trails and carriage roads, as long as they are on a leash no longer than six feet. They are allowed at the campgrounds as long as they are not left unattended.

Can I leave my pet in the car while I hike?

It is not recommended that pets be left in cars, especially during the summer months when temperatures inside a car, even with the windows cracked, can reach over 100 degrees in minutes.

Where can I see puffins?

There are three nesting islands off the coast of Maine. In order to see puffins, you must take a boat to one of these islands, one of which leaves from Mount Desert Island. Puffins aren't seen on or from Mount Desert Island.

What is the origin of “Acadia?”

Acadia probably stems from a name given to the area by the explorer, Giovanni Verrazano, when he sailed by in 1524. The shoreline reminded him of a part of Greece named Arcadia.

Where does the term Downeast come from?

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Maine was a shipping capital. When schooners sailed from Boston to ports in Maine, they traveled to the east. They also sailed downwind (with the wind at their backs). This led to the expression “Downeast.”

Is it Mount Desert Island or Mount Dessert Island?

Samuel Champlain, a French navigator and cartographer, sailed by Mount Desert Island in 1604. He named it “Isles des Monts Desert,” with the accent on the last syllable, as it would be in the French language. He wasn't implying that it was a desert. The phrase means “island of barren mountains.” That's why it's pronounced both as it is spelled and as the French phrase would be pronounced (dessert).

How far are you from Boston?

264 miles

How long is the loop road and how long will it take to drive it?

27 miles, 3-4 hours including some stops

What ranger-led activities are available?

Between mid-May and mid-October you may accompany a ranger on a hike, a shoreline walk, or a boat cruise. Rangers also offer talks on various subjects, evening amphitheater programs at the campgrounds, children's programs, and provide opportunities to view peregrine falcons and raptors.

When does the Island Explorer Shuttle Bus run and where does it go?

The Island Explorer runs between June 23 and early October. It travels between Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor and various locations in the park.

How cold is the water at Sand Beach?

Between 55-60 degrees F

CAMPING**When can I make reservations for Blackwoods?**

Six months in advance of your visit.

I have never been to Acadia. Should I camp at Blackwoods or Seawall?

Some people prefer to be closer to the main part of the park, the carriage roads, and Bar Harbor, so choose Blackwoods. Others prefer to be in a more remote area of the island, so choose Seawall. As far as facilities are concerned, they are the same, and both have wooded sites with no sites directly on the ocean.

Can I winter camp in Acadia?

Yes. You may winter camp at Blackwoods Campground, but it requires obtaining a free permit and hiking in from the entrance. Facilities are limited to portable toilets and a hand pump for water.

Is there backcountry camping in Acadia?

No. Backcountry camping is prohibited because the island is too small and the environment too fragile.

How do I make a group camping reservation?

Call or email us for a form. See Camping section for more details.

When and how can I make reservations to camp at Isle au Haut?

Call (207) 288-3338 for a reservation card, to be returned with a \$25 special use permit fee no earlier than April 1.

Does my camping fee cover the entrance fee into the park?

No. The two fees are separate.

Are there water and electric hookups in the park campgrounds?

No, but there is a dump station.

Are there any campsites on the ocean in Blackwoods or Seawall campground?

No. They are both a short walk (5-10 minutes) to the ocean.

Are there private campgrounds on the island?

Yes, there are about 12 private campgrounds scattered around the island. We will be glad to send you a list.

WEATHER

When are blackflies at Acadia?

Usually they are most numerous between mid-May and mid-June, but that could vary from spring to spring. They breed in running water, so they will be more prevalent if it is a rainy spring.

How much snow does Acadia receive?

Average snowfall in Acadia is about 61".

Can I rent skis nearby?

Skis, snowshoes, and skates can be rented in Bar Harbor.

When does the Park Loop Road open and close each year?

Each year the Park Loop Road on December 1, unless bad weather forces an earlier closure. It reopens on April 15, if the weather permits. The Ocean Drive section and access to the south end of Jordan Pond remain open all year.

Is the road to Cadillac Mountain open to vehicles in the winter?

No, the road up Cadillac Mountain follows the same schedule as the Park Loop Road, remaining closed from December 1 to April 15. Access in winter is by snowmobile, skis, or on foot. It is a minimum walk of nine miles round trip. Temperatures on Cadillac can be well below zero, with extremely high winds and drifting snow.

Can I hike any of the mountain trails in the winter?

Hiking mountain trails in the winter is not recommended. Trail markers and icy patches are obscured by drifting snow, creating very dangerous conditions for hikers.

What is the best time to see fall foliage?

The leaves start turning their fall colors in September, but the peak time is usually the first two weeks of October.

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Weather

Acadia National Park's weather is largely a product of latitude and marine influences. The Maine coastal climate has been ranked second only to the Pacific Northwest in annual precipitation. Precipitation occurs in every form. Rain falls in every month with an annual average of 48". The park also has a respectable annual average of 60.7" of snow. The tempering maritime conditions, however, with frequent freezing and thawing, prevent large, long-term accumulations.

On a daily and annual basis, Maine temperatures are more severe inland than they are on Mount Desert Island and on the coast in general. Studies also indicate that on the island itself, micro climates exist. Acadia's shoreline areas show less temperature range than some inland areas of the park. Extended periods above 90 degrees F and below 0 degrees F are rare at Acadia National Park.

Prevailing winds blow from the southwest in the spring and summer, and the northwest in the fall and winter. Three localized weather systems dominate Acadia. In the summer, the typical weather system is the "smokey sou'wester," a warm flow of air over the cool Gulf of Maine that produces the heaviest fogs of the year. These southwesterly patterns are associated with low pressure systems and may last for several days. The opposite of the southwester is the Bermuda High, a stationary high pressure system that sits over the Atlantic to the southwest and dominates New England weather for days. This system repels intruding fronts and weather often becomes hot and humid. The winter often brings the familiar nor'easters. These are associated with strong northeast winds that bring lots of snow and rain to coastal New England.

Spring can be foggy with temperatures ranging between 30 and 70 degrees. Blackflies are common in late May and June. Mosquitoes can also be bothersome. Wear light-colored clothing, long sleeve shirts and long pants for protection. Annual rainfall is 48 inches.

Summer daytime temperatures range from 45 to 90 degrees. Evenings are cooler. Dressing in layers is advisable for any boating or hiking activities. Ocean water temperatures range from 50 to 60 degrees. Lake water temperatures range from 55 to 70 degrees.

Autumn temperatures can range from low 70s during the day to freezing during the night. Come prepared for all types of weather, from sun to fog, from downpours to flurries. Fall foliage often peaks during the first couple of weeks in October. Weather conditions over the summer, such as drought, may alter the time that the leaves peak. Visit Maine Publicity Bureau for state fall foliage information.

Winter: Due to Acadia's coastal location, snow and weather conditions change rapidly. Temperatures vary from mid-30s to below zero. The park averages 61" of snow annually. For the latest in weather information, call the local weather phone line at (207) 667-8910, check the current weather conditions on the internet, or call the park at (207) 288-3338.

WEATHER OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Average day temp (F) | 32 | 33 | 41 | 52 | 64 | 72 | 77 | 76 | 68 | 58 | 48 | 37 |
| Average night temp (F) | 14 | 15 | 25 | 33 | 42 | 51 | 57 | 56 | 49 | 41 | 33 | 19 |
| Average rainfall (in) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Average snowfall (in) | 16 | 17 | 11 | 3 | T* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | T* | 2 | 12 |

*Trace

Average annual rainfall: 48 inches

Average annual snowfall: 61 inches

These figures were compiled over 45 years, from 1940-1985, as part of the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program.

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Helpful Resources

Resources can be purchased at park visitor centers and some local bookstores or can be ordered in advance from Eastern National (see page 1-30).

GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACADIA AND NATIONAL PARKS

- *Acadia's Park Loop Road*, by Robert Thayer, 48 pages
- *Acadia: The Story Behind the Scenery*, by Robert Rothe, 48 pages
- *AMC Discover Acadia: Guide to Hiking, Biking, Paddling*, by J&M Monkman, 279 pages plus separate map
- *Complete Guide to America's National Parks*, Fodors and National Park Foundation, 448 pages
- *Discovering Acadia*, by Laurie Hobbs-Olson, 64 pages
- *Geology of Mount Desert Island: A Visitor's Guide*, A State of Maine booklet, 50 pages
- *Mr. Rockefeller's Roads*, by Anne Rockefeller Roberts, 166 pages
- *National Parks: The American Experience*, by Alfred Runte, 335 pages
- *Native Birds of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park*, by Ralph H. Long, 41 pages
- *One Man's Museum—A History of the Islesford Historical Museum*, by Meg Fernald, 17 pages
- *The Story of Acadia National Park, Memoirs of George B. Dorr*, 127 pages

TRAIL GUIDES – MAPS

- *A Walk in the Park*, by T.A. St. Germain, Jr., text and maps, 144 pages
- *AMC Acadia National Park Hiking and Biking Map*
- *An Outdoor Family Guide to Acadia National Park*, by Lisa Collins Evans, 192 pages, text and map
- *Great Walks Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island*, by Robert Gilmore, 174 pages
- *Pocket Guide to Biking Mount Desert Island*, by A. Minutolo, 61 pages
- *Pocket Guide to Hiking Mount Desert Island*, by Earl Brechlin, 71 pages
- *Pocket Guide to the Carriage Roads of Acadia National Park*, by Diana F. Abrell, 40 pages including fold-out map
- *Topographical Map of Mount Desert Island, Maine* by Delorme Publishing, 1984
- *Trails Illustrated Topo Map: Acadia National Park–Mount Desert Island–Isle au Haut*
- *U.S. Geological Survey Map: Acadia National Park and Vicinity*, 1976
- *Mac's Field Guide to Acadia National Park* (laminated card illustrates plants and animals common to Acadia)

TEACHERS' GUIDES AND ACTIVITY BOOKS

- *Activity Guide to Acadia National Park for Teachers, Youth Leaders, and Interested Parents*, by Carol Peterson and Meg Scheid, 77 pages
- *Acadia National Park Junior Ranger Booklet*—Ages 7 and under or Ages 8 and up
- *Discovering Acadia National Park—A Young Naturalist's Guide*, by Meg Scheid, 80 pages
- *Exploring the Carriage Roads: An Activity Book*, by Carol Peterson
- *Shoreline Discovery: An Educator's Guide to Acadia's Coastline*, National Parks as Classroom Series, by Wylie and Hobbs-Olson
- *Where in the World is Tuzigoot: An Educators Guide to the National Park System*, National Parks as Classrooms Series, by Wylie and Petrie